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ENGLISHWOMAN'S

DOMESTIC MAGAZINE.

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Practical Information, Instruction, and Amusement.

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PREFACE.

SINCE we last reported progress to the many Englishwomen who patronise the DOMESTIC MAGAZINE, the arts of peace and many of its blessings have been stayed by the hand of War. Troubles manifold, tribulations deep, have not only vexed the State and given sorrow to politicians, but they have taken their places by ten thousand hearths; and still they sit in the accustomed chairs of husbands, fathers, brothers, who shall occupy them never again.

Hundreds of those who read our little periodical know this too well; and we should have been neither surprised nor discouraged if one result of so much private sorrow, so much public anxiety, had been displayed in the circumstance that this same little periodical had often been thrown aside and forgotten. This, however, does not seem to be the case. Eighteen hundred and fifty-three, closing upon many years of peace, dealt not more favourably with the ENGLISHWOMAN'S DOMESTIC MAGAZINE than Eighteen hundred and fifty-four, dying out with a sad accumulation of disaster, and a sadder prospect of disgrace. The absorbing events of the time, baleful as has been their influence on many peaceful undertakings, have not retarded our progress in the least: on the contrary, we have gained two thousand more readers since the close of the last volume; and this increase has been steady and ever advancing. By what numbers the progress of the Magazine would have been marked had peace still brought plenty to the land,

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we do not wish to calculate; it would have been enough not to have retrograded in such times—it is more than enough that the Magazine has prospered in spite of them.

In the preface to the second volume, it was promised that the Magazine should evince, "every month some marks of improvement." We now claim to have fulfilled the promise, and pledge it anew. For, satisfactory as the Magazine evidently is to thousands on thousands of readers, it will have to be improved before it is quite satisfactory to us: and we intend to be quite satisfied as soon as possible. The next volume will begin with improvement; and we hope at its conclusion it will be twelve degrees handsomer and more interesting than ever.

To those who have interested themselves in the Magazine—and they are very many—our sincerest thanks are given; and we hope they will as industriously earn our gratitude for the future as for the past.

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